

REMARKS

The indication that claims 2 - 4, 5/2, 5/3 and 5/4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is acknowledged.

Applicants also note that claim 3 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite with the Examiner indicating in claim 3, line 6 "or the like" is indefinite. Accordingly, by the present amendment, claim 3 has been amended to delete "or the like" such that the rejection of claim 3 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph should now be overcome.

Additionally, by the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of objected to claims 2 therein such that claim 1, as amended represents claim 2 written in independent form and applicants submit that claim 1, as amended should now be in condition for allowance. Further, objected to claim 3, in addition to deleting "or the like" to overcome the indefiniteness, has been amended to be in single dependent form depending only upon claim 1, which corresponds to claim 2 written in independent form. Likewise, objected to claims 4 and 5 have been amended to be in multiple dependent form dependent upon any one of claims 1 and 3 and any one of claims 1, 3 and 4, respectively. Since claims 3 and 4 have been indicated as being allowable when written in independent form and were dependent upon original 1, prior to amendment as effected herein, new independent claim 6 which corresponds to claim 3 written in independent form based upon original claim 1 has been presented and such claim should also be in condition for allowance. Further, new dependent claims 7 and 8 corresponding to claims 4 and 5 dependent upon claim 6 and on claims 6 and 7, respectively, have been

presented and these claims should also be in condition for allowance. Additionally, a new independent claim 9 corresponding to claim 4 incorporating the features of original claim 1, prior to amendment, has been presented and a new dependent claim 10 corresponding to claim 5 dependent upon claim 9 has been presented. Such claims correspond to the claims indicated as being objected to and should now be in condition for allowance.

With regard to the rejection of claim 1 and 5/1 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark et al ('879) this rejection is considered to be obviated by the amendment of claim 1 to incorporate the features of objected to claim 2 therein, such that applicants submit that the rejection, as stated, has now be overcome and a discussion of Clark et al with respect to the claimed invention is considered unnecessary.

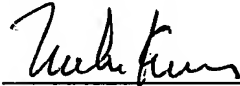
Since the only claims remaining in this application correspond to the objected to claims, applicants submit that all claims present in this application should now be in condition for allowance and issuance of an action of a favorable nature is courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli,

Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 648.43136X00),
and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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